ISSUE 03

AGRIVIEW

APRIL 2007

VOLUME 3

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ANTHRAX IS STILL A THREAT IN 2007 PAGE 12

Minister's Message

Welcome to the April 2007 edition of Agriview. By now, producers around the province are busily preparing to seed this year's crop. Spring is a time for optimism, to be sure, and Saskatchewan agriculture producers have much to look forward to for spring seeding 2007.

Optimism regarding strengthened commodity prices is more widespread among Saskatchewan's farm community than in the past. This is the first time in several years that it is projected that producers can make a profit on many crops. Some of the support to commodity prices results from bio fuel demand. This should result in positive effects for both cereal and oilseed crops in Saskatchewan.

A large increase in canola acres is anticipated in 2007. Canola prices have increased due to strong demand and some international bio fuel markets. The consumer trend away from trans-fats in developed countries is a positive factor for canola demand, and the agri-health trend is being viewed as a stable science-based market development. The announcement of two new crushing plants being built in the Yorkton region is also generating excitement.

Pulse crop production is also set to expand. Pea prices are reaching over $6.00 per bushel for the first time in five years, and the red lentil industry is developing with the expansion of secondary processing facilities in Saskatchewan. We are also poised to see increased chickpea production due to strong prices and crop improvements led by research at the Crop Development Centre and funded by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's Agriculture Development Fund.

In other areas, mustard prices have improved significantly due to low production levels in the past two years as the industry brought down stock levels, and Saskatchewan's small fruit industry is experiencing growth with profitable margins.

The grasshopper forecast map indicates that the risk of economically significant grasshopper populations will be low for Saskatchewan. In many parts of the province, producers have adequate subsoil moisture and abundant snow cover. It is my hope that producers are well aware of the potential level of wheat midge pressure they are predicted to face in 2007 and that, forewarned, they will take the appropriate management steps to deal with their individual situation. Producers can find additional information on moisture conditions, insect population and disease pressure at www.agr.gov.sk.ca.

The last several weeks have also seen several important events and announcements for Saskatchewan's agriculture industry. The Province continues to invest in agriculture through research and development, and we've improved and enhanced the 2007 Crop Insurance program. You can read more about these initiatives in the following pages of Agriview.

As producers go about their work this spring, I hope that they are filled with the season's optimism, and I wish them safety and success as they seed this year's crop.

Mark Wartman
Minister, Agriculture and Food

WTO NEGOTIATIONS RESUME

Following informal ministerial meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) during the week of January 27, 2007, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy announced that the WTO negotiations were to restart.

Saskatchewan has always advocated a balanced position at the WTO negotiations. We need to secure more market access, and a more level international playing field for the 95 per cent of our industry that relies on international markets. Saskatchewan also wants to protect, to the greatest extent possible, the supply-managed industries. Recent reports from the negotiations have raised concerns that Canada has put the interests of the supply-managed industries ahead of our export-dependent industries.

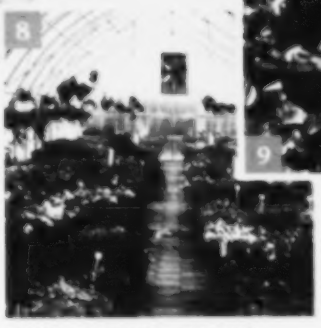
It has been reported that Canada's negotiating position on tariff rate quotas has led to Canada being excluded from some sensitive sector market access discussions. Canada cannot hope to influence the negotiations if we take positions that effectively exclude us from the negotiating table.

On February 7, 2007, at a meeting of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, federal agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl announced that Canada would be initiating negotiations under Article 28 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to restrict imports of milk protein concentrates. This move is seen as problematic for two reasons. First, it puts Canada in a position of attempting to add trade barriers, when the whole point of the WTO negotiations is to reduce them. Secondly, compensation required to restrict imports under Article 28, coupled with the fact that the United States would be exempt from this barrier anyway, due to the North American Free Trade Agreement, calls into question the effectiveness of this action.

It is important that Canada again provide leadership at the WTO to achieve a final result that meets the needs of both our export-orientated industries and the supply-managed industries.

STORY SNAPSHOTS

Crop Protection Laboratory - serving Saskatchewan producers



Saskatchewan's greenhouses are ready

Canadian Cherry Producers Inc. launches website

$134 million to boost commercialization of agri-based innovation

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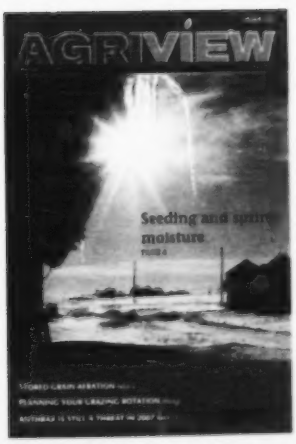

The melting of the snow in southern Saskatchewan signals that spring is here.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

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Grain to grass –an economic consideration

by Ralph Howes, PAg, Production Economics Specialist, AKC

The conversion of grain land to forage or pasture may represent an economic opportunity for your farming operation. If you do not require forages for your own use, you could allow someone else to produce it on your land, who would provide the labour and machinery required.

Forage could be considered as a rotational alternative to cereal production. Consider your local conditions for grass production, and review the opportunity to co-operate with other producers in your community. Areas of economic opportunity may include:

Reduced operating expense
Rising fuel, fertilizer and chemical input costs for cereal production create high annual operating expenses. Hay or pasture can reduce the annual operating expense to one-third and one-half that of cereal production, respectively. The savings arise from reduced annual inputs and lowered implement use.

Lowered production risk
Pastures and forages utilize spring and fall rainfall, and reduce some of the risk associated with dependence on annual summer rainfall for production.

Labour sharing opportunities
A neighbour who requires more hay or pasture may be willing to provide the labour or machinery in a shared venture. You would then have the rotational benefit of forage without purchasing additional equipment.

The "green" factor
Forage or pastures are very stable production systems that limit soil erosion potential. A legume component also contributes to soil nitrogen, which benefits future crops.

Despite the benefits of conversion to forage, you should also consider possible negative economic implications, such as:

- Loss of income in the establishment year for hay or pasture.
- Loss of flexibility for cropping alternatives during the forage period.
- Both hay and livestock production from the forage /pasture alternative are subject to yearly price fluctuations and subsequent income variability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

SEEDING AND SPRING MOISTURE – A BALANCING ACT

by David Larsen, Soil Nutrient Management Specialist, AKC

and

Ken Panchuk, Provincial Soils Specialist, Crop Development Branch, SAF

TABLE 1. Canola Production Centre Seeding Date Trials 1998–2000

Timing	Average Seeding Date	Yield (% of early seeded)	Odds of this treatment giving the highest yield	Oil Content (% oil versus early seeding)	Extra days until swath commenced
Early-seeded	6-May	100.00%	70%	-	-
Normal-seeded	18-May	94.50%	30%	0.25% less than early-seeded	Eight days later than early-seeded
Late-seeded	27-May	88.40%	0%	0.87% less than early-seeded	19 days later than early-seeded

Source: Canola Council of Canada

Subb soil moisture in the spring is like fuel in the tank of your car. The ideal condition is a full tank, primed and ready to roll. However, an overflowing tank isn't any more desirable than an empty tank. The availability of spring moisture will affect management decisions such as yield goals, fertility needs and crop selection.

Excess spring soil moisture in the northern grainbelt
If fields are wet, timely crop establishment is the obvious challenge. The benefits of early seeding have to be balanced with the risk of further heavy spring rains.

However, the benefits of early crop establishment are quite pronounced. Potential yield, quality and harvest are highest with early seeding dates for cool-season crops.

Dry to normal spring soil moisture conditions
Subsoil moisture is not excessive south of the Trans Canada Highway. Surface moisture will get your crop going in the spring, and subsoil moisture and precipitation will keep it growing. Growing season precipitation is difficult to predict, but subsoil moisture can be measured. Moisture stored in depths as great as four feet can be utilized by the crop.

TABLE 2. Plant available water stored per foot (305 mm) of moist soil for various soil textures

Soil Texture	Inches of soil water per foot (305 mm) of moist soil
Sand	0.75 in. (19 mm)
Loamy sand	1.00 in. (25 mm)
Sandy loam	1.25 in. (32 mm)
Loam	1.50 in. (38 mm)
Clay loam	1.75 in. (44 mm)
Clay	2.00 in. (51 mm)

A soil moisture probe can be used to measure the depth of moist soil. The depth of moist soil is used to estimate the stored plant available soil moisture.

Knowing how much moisture you have in your subsoil can assist in developing yield targets and fertilizer requirements.

Combining spring subsoil moisture testing with soil testing provides valuable information for setting realistic target yields, and fine tuning of nutrients required to meet the expected yield and quality. In the wetter northern areas, soil testing to 24 inches will help determine the amount and depth of the nitrate-nitrogen. In the southern areas, spring soil and moisture testing should be a routine operation. Soil testing this spring will have even greater value given the current high nutrient prices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

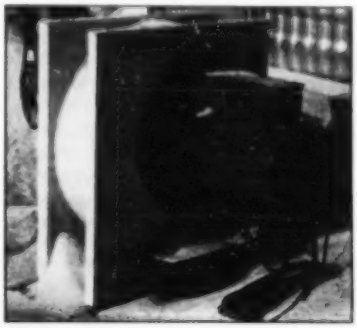
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377, or
- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca and click on Crops | Production | Seeding: Stubble Subsoil Moisture

Spring conditioning: Stored grain aeration

By Dale Risula, P. Ag, Integrated Cropping Management Systems Specialist, AKC

Now that spring is around the corner, it's time to start thinking about that grain you've got sitting in storage.

Much of the grain stored last fall needed treatment to deal with infestations of grain beetles or high moisture content. Since many grain treatment methods depend on proper environmental conditions, often the only solution is to try to manage the temperature of the grain for winter storage.



The warmer spring temperatures, coupled with high moisture grain, can be a disastrous mix for the producer. Without preventative measures, insect activity will resume. Cold-blooded insects thrive in warmer conditions, developing and reproducing quickly. It's important to monitor stored grains for insect activity and for changes and variations in temperature within the bin. Problems can occur rapidly if these factors are present.

Producers should use aeration systems to begin warming stored grains in the spring. Bring the grain temperature up slowly to about 10°C, ensuring a uniform temperature throughout the bin. Run aeration fans when the grain temperature falls below 5°C of the average daytime temperature. This will help make the aeration system more efficient and cost effective.

Once the grain warms to about 10°C, it should store safely through the summer. However, monitoring should still be part of your plan. Grain can still become infested, since insects can fly and enter through various openings in the bin.

If you detect an insect problem in the grain, or discover excess moisture or mould, you need to act quickly to deal with the situation. Any deterioration of the grain will significantly reduce the value and marketability of stored grains, even to the point of ultimate disposal.

So take time to monitor your stored grain. You've spent a great deal of time and money getting it this far. It would be a shame to let that slip out of your hands now.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

CROP PROTECTION LABORATORY – SERVING SASKATCHEWAN PRODUCERS

by Grant Holzgang, Crop Protection Laboratory Supervisor, SAF

Every year, Saskatchewan farmers suffer significant losses due to plant diseases, insects and weeds.

To help Saskatchewan producers manage pest and environmental related problems associated with growing crops, the Crop Protection Laboratory at Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food offers a range of diagnostic services to identify plant-related production problems, including:

- isolation of bacteria, fungi and nematodes related to plant diseases;
- insect identification;
- weed identification; and
- testing of weeds for herbicide resistance.

Diagnostic methods include microscopic examination and culturing of organisms using various methods and tests, including Biolog®, ELISA and immunofluorescence. A herbarium and insect collection are maintained for reference.

Applying the appropriate control practice requires proper identification of the cause of the threat to the plant. Accurate and timely diagnosis of pests assists growers in making economical decisions for effective crop management.

Submit a sample or specimen with the required Crop Protection Diagnostic Lab form, filled out as completely as possible, indicating test(s) to be performed. Collect a representative plant or tissue sample clearly depicting the problem, along with a healthy sample (if possible). Keep insects alive (if possible) in a small, tightly sealed container from which the insect cannot escape, or send it preserved in alcohol. Specimens and samples should be well packaged to prevent damage during transport.

The sample, together with a completed form, can be mailed to the Crop Protection Laboratory at 3085 Albert Street, Regina SK S4S 0B1.

Those wishing to courier or drop off samples in person can send these to 346 McDonald Street, Regina. The lab is open year round to service crop protection needs related to field, horticultural and greenhouse crops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the SAF website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/programs_Services/Cropprotection.asp; or
- Phone (306) 787-8130.

Developing pasture watering systems

by R.C. (Bob) Klemmer, M.Agr., P.Ag. Beef Forage Specialist, AKC

Water supply, water distribution, and water quality are essential to the health and productivity of pasture forage stands, and the animals that graze them.

Watering systems need not be costly or complex. Small incremental changes can have significant effects. Take time to evaluate your current situation. Plan out in detail how you might want to develop a new system.

Even small incremental changes can have important beneficial effects. The change can be as simple as installing a dugout aeration system, or installing a remote watering system. Or it can be as complex as installing a pasture pipeline distribution system.

No matter the source of your water — groundwater from a well or spring, or surface water from a dugout, dam, lake or stream — protecting the water source from deterioration and contamination not only protects the environment, but the health and productivity of your cattle. Simply installing a remote watering system to reduce animal impact around a well or dugout can yield significant economic returns.

The more obvious financial benefits to improving your pasture watering system include:

- reducing maintenance costs; and
- avoiding dugout or well redevelopment.

The less obvious benefits include:

- reducing foot rot and leg injuries;
- reducing deaths from drowning;
- reducing stress from sickness and disease; and
- improving water intake, which affects forage intake. This can improve cattle gain by as much as 1/3 lb. per day.

A well planned watering system can also improve animal and land productivity by enabling more advanced grazing management systems. Changing the watering system from one central watering site to multiple sites distributed over the entire pasture can have a wide-ranging impact on your pasture. When combined with cross fencing, water distribution using a pasture pipeline system can: increase water accessibility; improve cattle distribution; reduce over-grazing; improve forage productivity and utilization; improve distribution of plant nutrients from animal wastes; and prevent contamination of aquifers and surface water sources.

Planning watering systems to protect your water source and improve water distribution protects the environment. It also improves forage and animal health and productivity. Whether it is a simple improvement to your watering system or complete system overhaul, spending time to gather information, evaluate your options, and plan the development can have a significant effect on your bottom line.

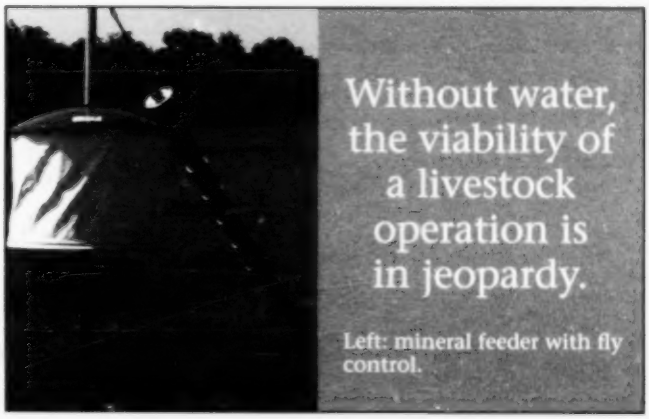
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

WATER QUALITY EFFECTS ON MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION

by Murray Feist, Ruminant Nutrition Specialist, AKC

One of the first things on the list of necessities for a livestock operation is a secure, clean water supply. Without water, the viability of a livestock operation is in jeopardy. In certain areas of the province, an inadequate water supply is the sole reason for limited production of livestock.



Left: mineral feeder with fly control.

Briefly explained, water constituents that can affect mineral supplementation include calcium, magnesium, iron, sodium and sulphates.

- Excessive levels of calcium (> 150 g/ml) and magnesium (> 100 g/ml) may create an imbalance in the cow's diet, requiring mineral supplementation to bring the diet into balance, particularly for phosphorus.
- Excessive levels of iron (> 1.0 g/ml) may alter the requirement for other trace minerals such as copper, zinc and selenium. Although uncommon, high iron levels can result in secondary deficiencies of the other trace minerals. A custom mineral mix may be one solution to consider.
- Excessive sodium (> 1000 g/ml) results in salty tasting water. If mineral supplements containing salt aren't being consumed, it may be because salt in the water is competing with salt in the mineral. Switching to minerals that do not contain salt, or trying molasses based mineral supplements, may be some solutions.
- High sulphate levels (>800 g/ml) often tie up copper, zinc and manganese in the rumen, causing a secondary copper deficiency. The problem is amplified in the presence of molybdenum, whereby a thiomolybdate complex is formed in the rumen, making copper completely inaccessible. Copper deficiency is often confirmed with a blood test and more commonly by liver biopsy. Solutions can include switching the water source, adding minerals, changing the salt mixture ratios in loose minerals, or feeding chelated minerals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377, or e-mail agintfo@agr.gov.sk.ca.

Planning your grazing rotation

by R.G. (Bob) Klemmer, PAg, Beef-Forage Specialist, AKC

While we still see season-long grazing systems in use, it is becoming increasingly common for beef producers to incorporate grazing rotations. Moving a cattle herd sequentially through a series of pasture fields over the course of the grazing season is a basic description of rotational grazing.

The rotation may be based on a mono-culture of one type of forage, or based on the growth habits of several different forage types (e.g. early-season, mid-season and late-season species or cool season/warm season species). Similarly, the rotation may be a simple once-through pattern over the course of the grazing season (common on native grass stands in arid climates), or may involve multiple passes over the same fields based on stage of plant growth, and length of rest period (more common with tame forage species in non-arid climates). In fact, whether you recognize it or not, most of you reading this article will have already incorporated some level of rotational grazing practices if you have a grazing plan.

In its simplest form, developing a grazing rotation could mean planning to move your cattle from pasture field to pasture field, as they graze off the plant growth in each field. Grazing strategies that can be incorporated are aimed at improving forage utilization, growth, production, and health of the forage stand. In turn, these same strategies benefit the cattle being grazed through higher production and higher quality forage. It is important to note that anything you do directly to improve the health and productivity of the forage stand directly and indirectly benefits you and your cattle.

The health of a forage stand depends on the health and vigour of the forage root system. Factors affecting the strength of the root system include soil fertility, length of rest periods, lack of competition, and moisture reserves. If you take care of soil fertility, planning and implementing a grazing rotation will allow you to better manage the rest periods necessary for plants to rebuild root reserves following periods of grazing. A strong root system will ensure the forage stand is ready to grow rapidly, taking advantage of the sun, warm temperatures, and moisture whenever they're provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

MINERALS AND PASTURE FOR CATTLE

by Murray Feist, PAg, Ruminant Nutrition Specialist, AKC

Cattle on pasture have mineral requirements that differ from each other based on age, weight and level of performance. Often, because cattle are free ranging on pasture, the easiest way to provide minerals is by free choice feeding.

Mineral intake is dependent on several factors, including palatability, location of the mineral, water quality and hardness, the type of mineral in the feed, the type of feed, and physical location of the pasture. Because it is difficult to account for individual animal preference, it is necessary to work with the whole herd. Additionally, because pasture mineral supplementation is often based on free choice consumption, intake levels tend to fluctuate.

Minerals on pasture often take several forms: liquid, loose crumble, or block. Each delivery method has its pros and cons, and usually works quite well regardless of form. However, if mineral intake is in question, it may be necessary to try other methods (e.g. changing mineral form, adding salt, removing salt, changing mineral location) to ensure cattle consumption of minerals. This article will deal with salt and loose mineral.

Depending on each individual circumstance, one method to try when addressing inconsistent mineral intake is to mix salt with loose form salt-free mineral. The ratio of salt to mineral is adjusted to either encourage consumption or prevent excessive intake. This flexibility is particularly needed in areas where cattle mineral intake is problematic due to high salt content in feed or water, or where other minerals such as selenium or copper are deficient or excessive. A starting point for mixing salt with mineral is one part salt to one part mineral, with adjustments made to the salt:mineral ratio until the recommended intake (as noted on the mineral feed tag) is achieved. Salt blocks should be removed when using salt mixed with loose mineral to ensure cattle do not have freedom of choice.

When discussing minerals for supplementation, often numbers such as 1:1, 1:2, 2:1 and 3:1 are quoted. These numbers refer to the ratio of calcium to phosphorus in the mineral. Levels of macro minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, potassium) and micro minerals (copper, zinc, selenium, molybdenum, cobalt, manganese, iron) will vary between products and companies, as will recommended intake rates. Usually, if intake guidelines are met, the cows' mineral requirements will also be met. Often, 1:1 and 2:1 range minerals are adequate for cattle pastured in Saskatchewan. Cattle grazing on cereal swaths may encounter high potassium or sulphur levels, requiring special attention - feed test the swaths and consult your local nutritionist or feed company.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca, click on Livestock | Beef | Feeding| Production | Feeds | Minerals for Beef Cattle; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

Bring on spring: Saskatchewan's greenhouses are ready!

Most people would consider a greenhouse to be a wonderful place to visit or work, with the 24° C (75° F) inside temperature, and being surrounded by plants all day. But despite the comfortable surroundings, a lot of hard work goes on in a greenhouse to get things just right for the customers. In a greenhouse, one can control the temperature, water and food for the plants, but to make money, there are two major things that must happen.

First is proper timing of the crop, so that it is ready when customers want it. For greenhouse vegetables, the crops are started about January 15 in order to have cucumbers ready to harvest around March 10-15, while tomatoes and peppers are ready in the middle of April. Many bedding plant producers started seeding plant varieties such as begonias and seed geraniums in January, to be ready for gardeners in May.

Second is the weather. Just like any other farming project, the weather impacts the bottom line. Although the environment inside the greenhouse is controlled, if there is snow or rain outside when it is time to sell the product, it is bad news. It is hard to sell the product during bad weather, as people are not in the gardening mood if the weather is not conducive to being outside. Bedding plant producers place their hopes on a favourable spring and sunny weekends.

Bedding plants will likely cost a little more this year. Most everything in a greenhouse is connected to the price of petroleum. The plastic cover, fertilizer, and small trays and packs are made from petroleum by-products, and then there is the heating cost. So, do not be shocked at the price, just make sure to fertilize your plants to ensure that you get the most growth and flowers out of them in your garden.

If you are interested in starting a commercial greenhouse, or have one, please call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your local garden centre for information on home and garden issues.

NEW CROP REPORTERS WELCOMED

Are you looking for a volunteer challenge? Join the Crop Reporting Service of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF)!

SAF has run the crop reporting program since 1976. Crop reporters in RMs across the province provide weekly information relating to crop production, including precipitation, crop conditions, and seeding and harvesting progress. Their responses are compiled into a weekly Crop Report during the crop season.

Volunteer crop reporters cover a defined area, usually their RM. Some RMs have two or three reporters monitoring conditions in their specific areas.

How does the reporting process work?
Crop reporters keep track of daily precipitation using a rain gauge supplied by SAF. They also complete a questionnaire for each week of the cropping season. Questions vary from week to week to reflect producers' activities through the season. In May, reporters are asked to estimate seeding progress in their area for each of the crops grown. In July, they estimate haying progress and crop development and condition.

Reporters then provide that data to SAF via a toll-free phone call or fax. SAF staff compile the data, and create the department's weekly Crop Report.

Who receives the Crop Report?
SAF's Crop Report has an extensive distribution list, including government, producers, agribusiness, RMs, financial institutions and media. It provides the information necessary to keep on top of crop conditions and emerging issues, such as flood or drought conditions, insect infestations, and harvest progress. A summary of the report, including maps, is also posted on the department's website.

How many volunteers are needed?
The Crop Reporting Service strives to have at least one reporter in each RM in the province to provide the best coverage possible. The RMs listed below are currently not covered by crop reporters. If you would be interested in participating in the Crop Reporting Service, or know someone else who would, please contact SAF. We welcome multiple reporters in all RMs, so please let us know if you are interested even if your RM is not on the list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food at 787-5947 or e-mail tbedard@agr.gov.sk.ca

RMs needing Crop Reporters

4, 5, 6, 7, 11,18, 31, 32, 37,72, 74, 94, 98, 100, 104, 121, 122, 130, 133, 137, 159, 162, 163, 168, 171, 181, 214, 215, 218, 223, 224, 229, 230, 244, 250, 253, 256, 257, 260, 261, 274, 281, 290, 301, 303, 305, 310, 315, 319, 331, 334, 342, 349, 368, 394, 403, 426, 427, 434, 437, 439, 460, 469, 470, 471, 490, 491

Canadian Cherry Producers Inc. launches website

by Ron Monette,
Agri-Business Development Specialist, SAF

The Canadian Cherry Producers Inc. (CCPI) is a recently created non-profit organization pursuing industry development of sour cherries and other related fruits developed by the University of Saskatchewan (U of S.) Their website was launched on February 12, 2007.

Sour cherries are used primarily for processing - cooking and baking. Sweet cherries, the ones found in grocery stores, are commonly eaten fresh as whole cherries. Sweet cherries do not make good cooking cherries because they lose much of their flavour when heated. Sour cherries cook well and make excellent pies. They are commonly canned for use in pie filling.

The "Evans" cherry, developed in the 1950s, is commonly grown on the Canadian prairies. It's a hardy plant that produces a lighter coloured, yellowish flesh fruit. The "Evans" cherry is similar to sour or tart cherry varieties grown elsewhere in the world, but is hardy to the prairies. The "Carmine Jewel," a

dwarf shrub cherry plant developed by researchers at the U of S, was released in the 1990s.

Two researchers at the U of S have been instrumental in maintaining the breeding program for cherries: Dr. Bob Bors and Rick Sawatsky. Through extensive work, the U of S released the Romance series of cherries in the spring of 2006. These include Romeo, Juliette, Valentine, Crimson Passion and, of course, Cupid.

The fruit from these plants is generally similar, but each cultivar has distinctive traits. Secured funding will allow researchers to continue answering questions such as "are particular cultivars better suited to particular products: for example, juice, jams, pies, and dried or fresh produce?"

The U of S has plant breeders, food labs, analytical equipment, and the talent to expand its research. Fruit breeding for cold climates will continue to have a huge impact around the world. Consumers are hungry for foods grown in relatively pristine conditions - it is perceived as simply healthier. CCPI will support, and encourages consumers to support, governments, the University and industry to invest in this important research.

CCPI believes in the potential of these newly created varieties. Their website, found at www.cherryproducers.com and www.cherryproducers.ca, is used to promote the U of S sour cherries. Additional information, as well as useful links, can also be found on the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Bruce Hill, Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Cherry Producers Inc., P.O. Box 360, Imperial, SK, S0G 2J0, telephone (306) 963-2632, or e-mail b.hill@sasktel.net; or
- Visit www.cherryproducers.com or www.cherryproducers.ca.

MALT BARLEY PRODUCTION ON PULSE STUBBLE

by Garth Massie,
Senior Barley Supply Agronomist,
Prairie Malt Ltd.

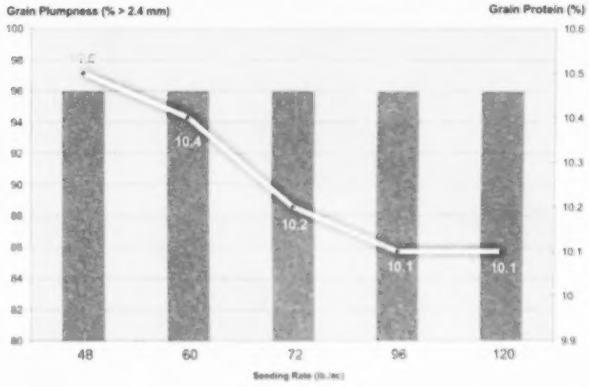
Successful malt barley production is dependent on a number of cultural practices, which can influence grain quality and the selection of barley for malting. These practices include seeding rates and crop nutrition. Grain protein is of particular importance in the selection of barley for malting, with the ideal protein range found between 11 and 12 per cent.

Producers are faced with the dilemma of targeting high yield with nitrogen-based fertilizers while maintaining acceptable protein levels. When producers grow malting barley on pulse stubble, the contribution of nitrogen from a preceding crop further complicates matters. Prairie Malt Limited and the Canadian Wheat Board have recently completed a two-year study to better understand the challenges of growing malting barley on pulse stubble. As the following chart illustrates, seeding rates and balanced crop nutrition appear to have an important influence on malting barley quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Garth Massie, Senior Barley Supply Agronomist, Prairie Malt Ltd., Biggar, SK, at 306-948-3500, ext. 505, or
- Contact Mike Grenier, Agronomist, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, MB, at 204-983-2996, or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

Seeding Rate Trial: (2005 & 2006) – Impact on Grain Plumpness and Protein



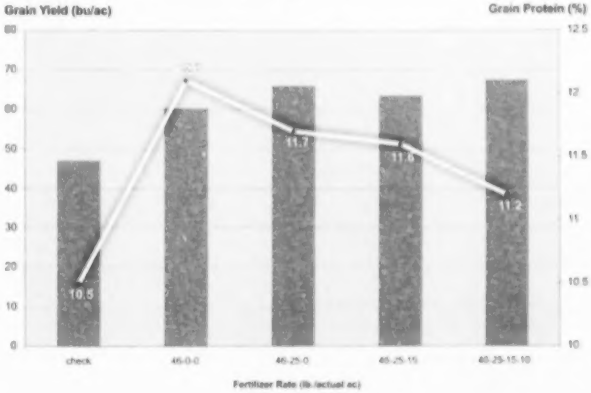
Key Findings:

Seeding rate had no impact on CDC Kendall barley plumpness.

Increasing seeding rate consistently reduced grain protein.

Growers utilizing seeding rates that target 20 live plants per square foot in the brown and dark brown soil zones are effectively managing grain protein.

Fertility Trial (2005-06): Impact on Grain Yield and Protein



Key Findings:

Grain protein levels of Metcalfe barley dropped as the crop nutrient balance improved. In particular, treatments including sulphur were consistently effective in reducing grain protein levels.

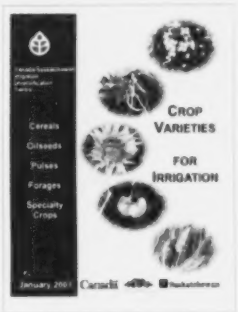
Yield responses to the different fertilizer rates differed between years of this study, with phosphate and sulphur giving the best yield responses in 2005, and nitrogen providing the best yield response in 2006.

Crop nutrition balance had no impact on grain plumpness in this two year study (data not shown).

Irrigation crop varieties for 2007

by Gerry Gross, PAg,
Senior Irrigation Agrologist,
Outlook

The Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) at Outlook provides ongoing variety testing of field crops to ensure Saskatchewan irrigators know which varieties are the most suitable for their farms.



To obtain copies of the 2007 *Crop Varieties for Irrigation*, see [illegible], or phone CSIDC at (306) 867-5400, or SAF at (306) 867-5512.

High yielding varieties are often the most in demand. However, other factors, such as days-to-maturity and lodging resistance, may be of equal importance.

Variety development is proceeding rapidly in many field crops as seed companies aggressively compete for market share. CSIDC attempts to place all varieties on a level "irrigation" playing field, and allow irrigators to select the varieties which suit their needs.

A brief summary of the variety information available in the 2007 CSIDC publication entitled *Crop Varieties for Irrigation* is described as follows:

Canola – The variety 46A65 is the check. Twenty four varieties surpassed this variety in the tests, with 15 exceeding the check by 10 per cent or more. A number of the high yielding varieties are already sold out for 2007.

Flax – CDC Bethune continues to be a variety of choice under irrigation. New varieties challenging CDC Bethune are Prairie Thunder and Prairie Blue.

Spring Wheat – AC Barrie remains the check variety and it continues to be a good variety for irrigation. However, it is rated against a number of other classes of spring wheat, which are perhaps more suited for irrigation.

Barley – AC Metcalfe remains the check variety and has been rated against a number of good malt and feed barleys in the test. For malt barley, it is important to stay connected to the malt industry and grow varieties which are preferred by the buyers. Both marketing considerations and irrigation evaluations should be used by the grower in variety selection.

CSIDC irrigation agronomist Terry Hogg examines canola seed from the variey trials.

Field Pea – Only semi-leafless varieties are recommended for irrigation, as normal leaf varieties have a greater potential for disease development within the thick canopy. CDC Mozart was the check for 2006, and it was surpassed by 10 other yellow and one green variety.

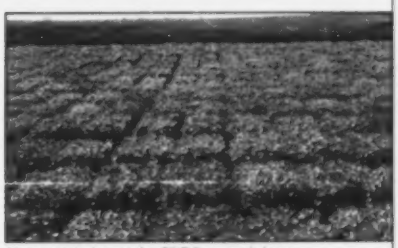
Dry Bean – Othello remains the check variety in the pinto bean class, with Winchester showing a slight yield advantage.

Harvesting the irrigated variety trial plots at Outlook.

Information on fababeans, oilseed sunflowers, annual forages, alfalfa, timothy and potatoes is also included in the *Crop Varieties for Irrigation*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- See www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com; or
- Phone Terry Hogg of CSIDC at (306) 867-5400, or Lana Shaw of SAF at (306) 867-5512.



Variety test plots at the CSIDC research farm, Outlook.

IRRIGATION CERTIFICATION FOR SASKATCHEWAN PRODUCERS

by Garth Weiterman, PAg,
and Kelly Farden, AAg, Outlook

Saskatchewan producers who have access to an irrigation water supply may find the idea of irrigation development to be appealing.

However, before developing any new irrigation projects, producers must obtain an Irrigation Certificate from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF). This provision is found in *The Irrigation Act, 1996*. This certificate confirms that the land to be developed and the water source to be utilized are suitable for irrigation.

The Agro Environmental Unit (AEU) of SAF's Irrigation Development Branch is responsible for approving and issuing Irrigation Certificates.

In order for a parcel of land to be considered suitable for irrigation, it must meet several soil and landscape criteria, because irrigating unsuitable soils can lead to soil degradation and reduced crop yields. Various factors affecting the suitability of land for irrigation include soil texture; salinity; sodium concentration; changes in soil texture with depth; water infiltration rates; the depth to water table; and topography.

A duelled EM38 meter is pulled across the land to detect salinity at a depth of 1.5m in the vertical mode and 0.75m in horizontal mode.

The AEU conducts a soil-water compatibility investigation. This involves a background review of the land and an on-site soils investigation. The background review examines air photos, soil survey data, water quality data, and underground utilities.

On-site, the AEU studies the salinity of fields with an instrument called a dual EM38. This is used in combination with a Differential Global Positioning System to develop a topography map for the land being investigated, and detailed salinity maps for two depths: 0.75 m and 1.5 m. The salinity maps provide valuable information as they can identify any "hidden salinity" that may exist at depth in the soil profile.

Irrigating saline soils that have poor drainage or a high water table can lead to salt accumulation in the root zone and cause reduced crop yields. However, if there is good internal drainage, then irrigation can actually help leach some of the salts out of the profile.

There are a number of factors that affect the suitability of a piece of land for irrigation. The AEU works to ensure that all these factors have been considered so that a producer's investment in an irrigation project is a sound one.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Phone the Irrigation Development Branch at (306) 867-5500; or
- Visit www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com; or
- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca and look under "Production."

$134 million to boost commercialization of agri-based innovation

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, recently announced a major investment of $134 million towards the Agri-Opportunities Program, an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) program that will focus on the commercialization of new agri-based products, processes and services.

"This is just one of the steps Canada's New Government is taking to fulfill its commitment to invest in the development of new opportunities for the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector," said Minister Strahl. "Agri-Opportunities will help increase the demand for primary agricultural products - grains, oilseeds and other traditional and non-traditional products - for the benefit both of farmers and of the entire agricultural sector."

The Agri-Opportunities Program will help good ideas go from the drawing board into the market. Funding will be provided for projects that can be expected to increase market opportunities for the Canadian agricultural industry across the value chain and generate demand for primary agricultural products.

"Here in Saskatchewan, the Agri-Opportunities Program can help add value to what we produce," Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman said. "For example, this program could help a group of lamb producers that have developed a new lamb product that is not currently commercially available to bring that product to the marketplace."

Individuals, producers, agri-businesses, co-operatives, non-profit and for-profit organizations and academia are eligible to apply for the funding, which will be delivered through contribution agreements. Maximum contribution per project and per applicant will be capped at $10 million over a five-year period.

To be eligible for funding, projects must: be focused on agri-food, agriculture and bioproducts that are not commercially produced or available in Canada; be ready to commercialize, meaning a prototype has been developed, a market has been defined, a business plan has been written and intellectual property issues have been finalized; and be conducted in Canada and benefit the Canadian agricultural industry.

Agri-Opportunities will be delivered nationally by AAFC in all provinces and territories.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call 1-866-367-8506; or
- E-mail agri-opp@agr.gc.ca

GROCERS, AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES

by Shawn Hermanson, PAg,
Agri-Business Development Specialist, SAF

Recently, the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors held their Western Conference in Calgary, Alberta. The conference theme was "Connecting With Industry" and was focused on how to prepare the Canadian grocery industry for emerging Canadian consumer trends, and how to retain market share in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Primary producers have a lot in common with the grocery industry in the challenges they face. Both parties are facing tighter and tighter margins as they carry out business in today's global economy. Industry participants are getting larger, utilize enormous economies of scale, and have the ability to source cheap product in a timely manner from all over the globe.

Some of the recommendations put forward at the conference pertain not only to the retail grocery industry but to primary and value added agri-businesses, as well. For example:

- Capitalize on large businesses' weaknesses. Consider providing local, fresh, high quality product. This may be a niche that a large company cannot fill as effectively.
- Effectively brand yourself. This can serve as a tool that will help fulfill goals. It is an expression of a business or product's identity. It is a way of portraying an honest and true message relevant to what customers want.
- Know your consumer. Find what you do best and focus on that. Don't try to compete at every level. This may not be possible. Recognize that today's consumers want to feel they are "smart shoppers" and that they are getting good value for their money.
- Address your labour needs, and know what your employees really want. The top three employee expectations of their employers are interesting and challenging work; open communication; and opportunity for growth and development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors website at www.ccgd.ca; or
- Call SAF Agri-Business Development Specialist Shawn Hermanson at (306) 778-8216.

Mortlach Community Sheep Pasture

by Blake Kohls,
South Regional Manager,
Saskatchewan Pasture Program, SAF

The Mortlach Community Sheep Pasture wants to stock more sheep for the 2007 grazing season. The pasture has been operating since 1968 as part of the Saskatchewan Pasture Program (SPP) of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF).

The pasture is located five miles east of Mortlach on old Highway One. Mortlach Community Pasture consists of 3,800 acres of mostly tame grass pasture. This location operates as a sheep pasture mainly because of the prevalence of leafy spurge. The sheep are used as an effective non-chemical control of this noxious weed.

The Mortlach pasture is the only provincial sheep pasture that the Saskatchewan Pasture Program operates. Patrons from throughout the South Central region of the province support the Mortlach Community Pasture by delivering their sheep for summer grazing. The pasture has the capacity to maintain approximately 2,200 adult ewes and their lambs for the grazing season, mid-May through mid-October.

Sheep enjoy the shade in Mortlach Pasture

SPP operates on a revolving fund basis where income and expenses of the pasturing program remain within the program's fund. For the 2007 grazing season, fees are set at nine cents per ewe per day and $5.00 per lamb for the season. Fees have been kept as low as possible. Patrons also commit to helping out at the pasture for special projects.

The Saskatchewan Pasture Program is pleased to work with the patron's advisory committee to support the patrons, the community, and the sheep industry. SAF considers the sheep industry an important diversification opportunity in the Saskatchewan livestock sector.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Sharon Lockhart, Pasture Manager, Mortlach Community Sheep Pasture, at 306-756-4104.

ANTHRAX IS STILL A THREAT IN 2007 – VACCINATE!

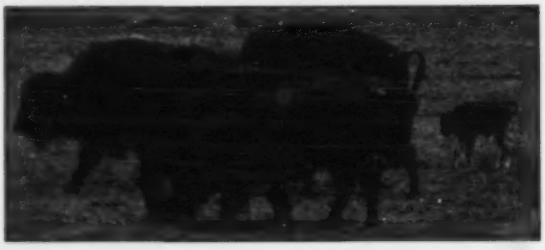
by Dr. Mary VanderKop,
Surveillance Veterinarian, SAF

The summer of 2006 will be remembered for the impact that anthrax had on many livestock producers in Saskatchewan. More than 800 animals - cattle, bison, elk, horses, sheep, swine and deer - died. Deaths were controlled by the quick response of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), local veterinarians and dedicated farmers who vaccinated livestock and disposed of carcasses.

The damage from this disease to individuals and their communities is still fresh. People are substantially changed by the uncertainty, the dread and the anger of facing each morning, expecting to watch their animals die. There is no denying that this emotional impact compounds the economic loss that people experienced. We don't want this to happen again.

The anthrax outbreak last summer was referred to as a "perfect storm": a rare coincidence where a completely susceptible livestock population combined with exceptionally high rainfall levels and runoff that exposed spores and produced an outbreak. Destroying the affected carcasses reduced spore contamination of the land, but did not eliminate the risk.

Vaccination provides good protection for six months to a year, but a booster is important and the vaccine must be properly handled and administered to ensure a good response. Even strong immunity can be overwhelmed by very high doses of spores. Several cases of anthrax were confirmed in February 2007, in cattle in the epidemic area. Their winter feed was harvested from regions affected with anthrax last summer, and could have contained enough spores from the soil to infect even vaccinated cattle. Fortunately, these cases were recognized quickly and the herds revaccinated, but it is a reminder that anthrax will still be here in the summer of 2007.



Plan to protect your herd and prevent anthrax this summer. Talk to your veterinarian about vaccination. Any herd that was quarantined in 2006 should be vaccinated this year and in the future. Any new animals introduced to these herds should also be vaccinated. Herds in the heavily affected regions are at risk of developing anthrax in 2007 even if they were vaccinated in 2006, so it is wise to take this disease seriously.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Agriculture Development Fund approves 35 projects

Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman recently announced $4.39 million in funding to support 35 agriculture research and development projects in Saskatchewan, through Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

"The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the positive role that research and development has played in making the province's agriculture and agri-food industry competitive," Wartman said. "Research funding provided by ADF provides the resources essential for the development of new tools and knowledge that ensures Saskatchewan maintains its leadership role in the world market place."

The current round of ADF funding provides support for research projects undertaken by organizations such as the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, the Western Beef Development Centre, and the Prairie Swine Centre.

Projects include the characterization of a co-product of ethanol production for use as a feed ingredient; the development of a consumer-ready, bio-degradable, fibre-based, single-use container product that utilizes Saskatchewan crop residue; and the design of micro-capsules from plant proteins for the delivery of heart healthy essential fatty acids.

"It is estimated that every dollar invested in crop genetics research by ADF generates $3.43 in producer returns," Wartman said. "For each dollar of increased producer returns, an estimated additional dollar accrues to other sectors of Saskatchewan's economy, including agri-value sectors, transportation and marketing, manufacturing, financial services and wholesale and retail trade.

"Therefore, ADF funding is a very strategic investment."

ADF provides funding to support institutions, companies and industry organizations to carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector, resulting in new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, processors, and input suppliers.

SAF Minister Mark Wartman and Richard Florizone, Vice-President of Finance and Resources, University of Saskatchewan, at the ADF news conference in Saskatoon. Photo courtesy of the U of S.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call SAF's Agriculture Research Branch in Regina at (306) 787-6566; or
- View all ADF 2006-07 approved projects on SAF's website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca under "Research."

GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Agricultural research and development in Saskatchewan recently received a boost as a result of an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan on the use of $41.5 million in federal Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) funds.

The funding was announced by Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman.

"Canada's New Government is proud to increase its investment in agricultural research to ensure farmers can take advantage of future economic opportunities," Strahl said. "Saskatchewan and, in fact, all of Canada, will benefit from this enhanced investment into research and innovation in areas such as food and bioproducts, biofuels, beef and swine production, and the development of high value feed products."

> "... enhanced research and development efforts will create dividends in a stronger and more competitive agricultural industry."
> SAF Minister Mark Wartman

"This funding is part of the commitment of both Canada and Saskatchewan to science and innovation," Wartman said. "Saskatchewan has a very large agricultural capacity, and requires an equally large research capacity to maximize its potential. Additional resources in crop and animal genetics, biofuel research, and the development of new high value feed products are a few examples where enhanced research and development efforts will create dividends in a stronger and more competitive agricultural industry."

As a result of this agreement, Saskatchewan has made significant investments to enhance research programs or expand facilities at a number of agriculture research institutions in Saskatchewan.

The funds will add three new research chairs at the University of Saskatchewan and one at the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute; provide equipment and laboratory facilities at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and Prairie Diagnostic Services at the University of Saskatchewan; and support new research facilities at the Prairie Swine Centre.

The announcement also includes funding for the Feed Technology Centre, the Crop Development Centre, the POS Pilot Plant, and the Western Beef Development Centre.

Agricultural Policy Framework funding was announced in Saskatoon by (left to right) University of Saskatchewan President Peter MacKinnon; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister and Canadian Wheat Board Minister Chuck Strahl; and SAF Minister Mark Wartman. Photo courtesy of the U of S.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit AAFC's website at www.agr.gc.ca; or
- Visit SAF's website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca, under "Programs and Services."

Crop Insurance establishment coverage

One of the basic features of a multi-peril Crop Insurance contract is the establishment benefit. Whether you produce traditional grain crops, forage or diversified acres, there are establishment benefit options available to you. An adjuster will determine eligibility for any establishment benefit.

Spring-Seeded Crops
Crops that fail to adequately establish or suffer significant damage due to insurable causes before June 20 are eligible for an establishment benefit payment, with payments varying by crop. A minimum of 10 acres or 10 per cent of the total acres seeded to the insurable crop must have failed to establish.

If you decide to reseed or work down any portion of your insured crops before June 20, an adjuster must inspect those acres for the crop to qualify for the Establishment Benefit.

Fall-Seeded Crops
Crops seeded in the fall of 2006 and insured against yield loss by March 31, 2007 will be covered for spring-related establishment losses. However, winterkill is not an insurable cause if winterkill insurance was not selected by August 25, 2006. If you do not select winterkill coverage, fall crops that you wish to be insured for yield loss are subject to a spring inspection to assess establishment.

Forage Establishment
Forage Insurance provides a number of options to producers, including:

- Customers who selected Forage Establishment Benefit Option coverage by March 31, 2007 receive establishment coverage on seeded perennial forage (alfalfa, alfalfa/grass, grass, red clover and biennial sweetclover).
- Establishment protection is available on native forages enrolled under the federal Greencover Canada Program.
- For greenfeed, a minimum of 10 acres or 10 per cent of the total acres seeded must have failed to establish due to insurable causes before June 30.

Diversification Option Establishment
For crops insured under the Diversification Option that fail to establish by June 20 due to insurable causes, there is a Diversification Establishment Benefit. A minimum of 10 acres or 10 per cent of the total acres seeded to the insurable crop must have failed to establish to receive a benefit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- If your insured crop has failed to adequately establish or has suffered damage before the deadlines stated in your 2007 Reference or Forage Guide or at www.saskcropinsurance.com, contact your customer service office or call 1-888-935-0000.

MEAT CUTTER TRADE BOARD PROVIDES AWARD WINNING TRAINING

When it comes to Meat Cutter apprenticeship and trade certification, the Meat Cutter Trade Board has been enthusiastic and tireless in their support of this new trade.

Although the Meat Cutter trade is new, the Board has forged ahead, within a very short period of time, to make sure the meat cutting industry has apprenticeship training and certification, which enables both apprentices and tradespersons to certify in the Meat Cutter trade. In addition, endorsement certifications are also available for meat processors and slaughterers.

In November, the Meat Cutter Trade Board was recognized with the Outstanding Trade Board Award from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.

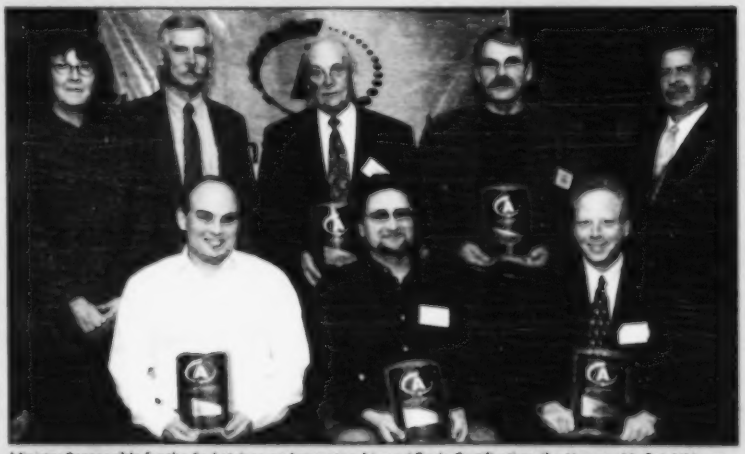
The Commission said the award represents innovation and hard work in developing and delivering a training model.

The Meat Cutter Trade Board has worked hard to attend multiple day curriculum meetings to develop promotional materials, a Provincial Occupational Analysis, and testing materials. It sets the standards for both training and work experience, helps to develop examinations, and specifies the credentials that work for the trade. The training delivery format must meet the needs of both the apprentices and their employers. What works for one trade may not be appropriate for another.

The Meat Cutter Trade Board has equal representation from employers and employees. It has continued to endorse the Meat Cutter trade with many partnerships amongst a wide variety of associations and communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Saskatchewan Apprenticeship at 1-877-363-0536, or the Saskatchewan Meat Processors Association at (306) 242-2194.

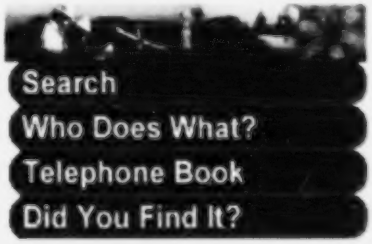


Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification, the Honourable Pat Atkinson, and Commission Board Vice-Chair Garry Kot, presented the 2006 Outstanding Trade Board Award for 2006 to the Meat Cutter Trade Board. Left to right (front row): Mike Guest, Jim Moldenhauer, and Darrel Fehr. Back row: Minister Atkinson, Paul Rogers, Larry Erber, Jim Rudy and Vice-Chair Kot.

SAF's search engine

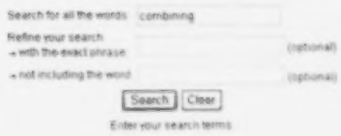
You are looking for specific information on the SAF website – so how do you find it?

A simple short cut is to utilize the Search function available on all pages of our website. With the re-design of our website, our new search engine is now more powerful and easier to use than ever before.

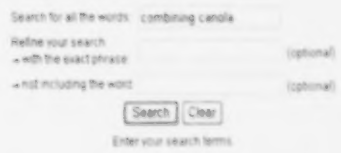


In the upper right hand corner of every web page on our website, you will find a button that will take you to our search page. On this page, you will find that there are options to make your search as broad or refined as you may require.

First box



The first box is where you can enter a single word to search, such as "combining." Click on Search. The search engine will find any document that has the word "combining" in that document. You can also search using more than one word, such as "combining" and "canola."



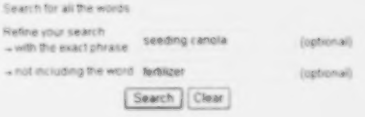
The search results will return every document with either "combining" or "canola" in that document.

Second box

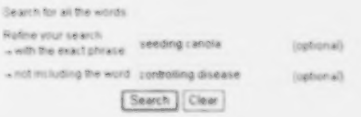
In the second box, you can enter several words, such as a phrase or a name of a specific program or publication: for example "seeding canola." Once you have entered your words,

click on Search and the search engine will look for all web pages that have that exact string of words somewhere in the text.

Third box



The third box you can use to filter. Using the "seeding canola" example again, you might want to exclude any information on fertilizer. Type in fertilizer in the third box, while "seeding canola" is still showing in the second box. The results will show all pages that contain the phrase "seeding canola," but exclude any that contain the word "fertilizer."



You can also enter a phrase in this third box, such as "controlling disease," and the search engine will exclude any pages with that phrase in the text.

The Results

Click on a link that matches your search terms. A new page will open and you can read the information you need. Close this page, then you will be back to the original search result page.

Watch the next issue of Agriview for details on how to "Ask SAF."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact SAF's webmaster at www.agr.gov.sk.ca and click on Contact Us in the upper right hand corner of any web page on our site.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

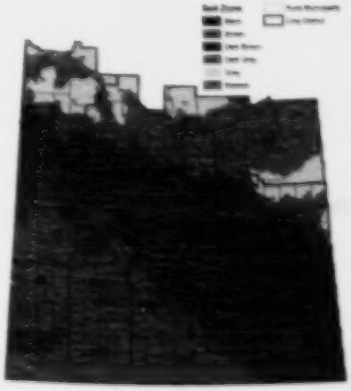
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food is constantly updating the wealth of information it makes available to Saskatchewan residents. You can download the most current version of any document posted on our website. You can also call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to request a hard copy of many items. Below is a list of the latest documents posted, as well as the most frequently visited pages, on SAF's website at: www.agr.gov.sk.ca.

Game Farm Program – Supports the development of the game farm industry by delivering licensing and regulatory programs for domestic game farms. Visit: Development | Investment Opportunities

Seeding Safe Handling of Pulse Seed – FAQs – How can I prevent damage to my pulse seed at the different stages, such as harvesting, cleaning, moving, inoculating and planting? Visit: Production | Seeding

Things to consider before planting oats – FAQs – What variety should I seed, when is the best time to plant oats and at what rate should I seed my oats? What kind of fields should I avoid? What is the current situation with Crown Rust in oat production? When is the best time to plant oats? Visit: Production | Seeding

Relative Yields of Varieties of Perennial Forage Crops in Saskatchewan – Provides information on relative yields for a number of perennial forage crop varieties. Visit: Production | Overview



Integrated Pest Management – A decision -making process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests effectively, economically and in an evironmentally sound manner. Visit: Management | Skills and Training

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	EMAIL
Mar. 31	SCIC – Deadline to make payment arrangements for 2006 outstanding balances to be insured for 2007	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation	1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
Mar. 31	SCIC – Deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to your 2007 Crop Insurance Contract	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation	1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
Apr. 9-14	Orchard Management & Pruning Workshop	Southeast & Southwest Regions	1-877-973-7848	www.saskfruit.com
Apr. 15-21	Soil Conservation Week			
Apr. 16-21	Orchard Management & Pruning Workshop	West Central & Northwest Regions	1-877-973-7848	www.saskfruit.com
Apr. 16-17	Ag-West Bio Business Planning Workshop	Vicogen Rm, Atrium Building - 111 Research Drive (Innovation Place)	(306) 668-2652	www.agwest.sk.ca
Apr. 17-18	Agroforestry Management Course	Whitewood South East Regional College	(306) 735-2290	www.saskforestcentre.ca
Apr. 23-27	Orchard Management & Pruning Workshop	East Central & Northeast Regions	1-877-973-7848	www.saskfruit.com
Apr. 25	Pig Handling Workshop	Western Canadian Livestock Expo - Saskatoon	(306) 276-5761	www.pighandling.com
Apr. 25- 26	Western Canadian Livestock Expo	Prairieland Park, Saskatoon	(306) 933-5096	
May 9	Stock Person's School	Western College of Veterinary Medicine Rm 2302, U of S, Saskatoon SK	(306) 249-3227	
May 15- 16	Ag-West Bio Business Planning Workshop		(306) 668-2652	www.agwest.sk.ca

MINISTER PROCLAIMS SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman has proclaimed the week of April 15-21, 2007, as Soil Conservation Week in Saskatchewan.

The theme for 2007 is Soils and the Environment.

"Saskatchewan producers realized the importance of soil conservation many years ago, and are world leaders in the adoption of soil conservation practices. I am very proud of Saskatchewan producers, for their stewardship of the soil, and their role in promoting soil conservation and protection of the environment," Wartman said.

The Minister also noted that Saskatchewan is a leader in conservation tillage technology, developed by Saskatchewan farmers and exported all around the world, helping to improve sustainable agriculture worldwide.

Soil Conservation Week in Saskatchewan is observed in conjunction with National Soil Conservation Week, promoted across Canada by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC). This year marks the 22nd annual National Soil Conservation Week held in Canada.

The SCCC's Executive Director, Doug McKell of Indian Head, encourages all citizens, as well as agricultural producers, to be aware of and practice soil conservation.

"All Canadians should be conscious of the soil because it's the source of our food. Soil is as valuable a resource as water, air and our biodiversity," McKell said.

One of the SCCC's members, the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA), is composed of Saskatchewan producers who have actively promoted the use of soil conservation techniques for the last 20 years.

SSCA Executive Manager Blair McClinton said soil conservation is the foundation of all sustainable agricultural production. He said Saskatchewan has the highest level of adoption of soil conservation practices in Canada, and Saskatchewan producers are among the highest users of soil conservation practices anywhere in the world.

"Soil conservation practices maintain and enhance soil quality, and also improve water quality, air quality, and help to address climate change by storing carbon in the soil," McClinton said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- See the SCCC's website at www.soilcc.ca/; or
- See the SSCA's website at www.ssca.ca/; or
- See Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca and enter "Soil" in the search function.

TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE PASTURE?

If you're a livestock producer and expect to have too much or too little pasture land this summer, remember to contact the Feed Grain and Forage Listing Service through the Agriculture Knowledge Centre.

This internet service can help connect producers who need pasture with those who have pasture for rent.

Call the AKC at 1-866-457-2377 or log on to the SAF website at [illegible] and look under Programs and Services.

Saskatchewan!